been developed. The Corpora would help the development of translation tools, packages for teaching of Indian Languages, Linguistic analysis and related fields of language development.

Some private organisations are also making efforts in preparing software packages and tools for development of Hindi and other Indian Languages. Some of these efforts include development of (i) Hindi PC-DOS by Tata-IBM and (ii) WINDOWS NT-5 System with joint collaboration between National Centre for Software Technology (NCST), Mumbai and Microsoft Corporation, U.S.A. and Indian Language Kit by Apple Computer in India.

Wildlife population

*156. SHRI S.M. KRISHNA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the newsitem captioned "India wildlife population dying a slow death", which appeared in the Hindustan Times dated January 26, 1999; and

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI SURESH PRABHU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Schaller's book on deer and tiger is one of the finest scientific documents on the behavioral and ecological aspect of wild animals. It is a fact that the population of wild animals has significantly declined over a period of time and it can in no way be compared to the population of wild animals during the time of Babar and Akbar. Within limited resources, the Government of India have done very well to conserve endangered species of wild animals. The population trend in case of some of the major species, in the year when the census was conducted, is shown in the statement given below.

Statement

S. No.	Name of species	Population						Remarks
1.	Tiger	1827 (1972)	3015 (1979)	4005 (1984)	4334 (1989)	3750 (1993)	2959* (1997)	*The census figures for 1997 are not available in respect of Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Bihar, Nagaland and Tamilnadu. The tiger population for these States in the year 1993 was recorded as 822.
2.	Rhino	1591 (1989)	1567 (1991)	1498 (1993)	1566 (1995)	1598 (1997)		
3.	Leopard	4744 (1984)	6763 (1989)	6828 (1993)				
4.	Lion	177 (1968)	239 (1985)	304 (1995)				
5.	Elephant	18960 (1985)	21687 (1989)	25571 (1993)				

Figures in parenthesis indicate the year in which census was conducted.